Jacqueline Benitez-Alfaro

Trifles Worksheet

**1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph**.

* Trifles takes place in John and Minnie Wright’s abandoned farmhouse, specifically in their kitchen. The characters involved in this play are the court attorney, the sheriff. Mr. Hale, Mrs. Wright, Mr. Wright, Mrs. Hale, and Mrs. Peters. Mr. Wright has been murdered and they are trying to figure out who is behind all of it. The main suspect is his wife, Mrs. Wright.

**2. What is the *intrusion*? Ie. What causes the dramatic action to race toward the end of the play?**

* I think the intrusion would be Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale find the dead bird in a box, which would make Mrs. Wright look guilty. Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale tried their best to hide this from the men so Mrs. Wright would not look guilty. They knew Mrs. Wright was not happy in her marriage and how her husband treated her, because they experienced it in their own marriages so they wanted to protect her.

**3. What is the *unique factor*? Ie. Why has the playwright decided to choose this moment in time to move the dramatic action forward?**

* I think the unique factor of the play is how the women helped each other in order for none of them to be found guilty. The women were not treated fairly and abused by the men during this time period so they were looking out for each other.

**4. What is the *dramatic question* that is to be answered by the end of the play?**

* Did Mrs. Wright kill Mr. Wright?
* Will anyone be arrested for Mr. Wright’s murder?
* Will the sheriff or court attorney find the dead bird?

**5. There are many *forwards* that are designed to raise and hold your interest? Identify a few of them below.**

* Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters finding the dead bird.
* The court attorney searching the house
* When the court attorney sarcastically asks if they should be checking the stuff the women are taking Mrs. Wright.

**6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.**

* I think the most theatrical moment of the play is when the men are searching the kitchen and they start acting as if they do not belong there because it is a women’s place and the joke about it as they leave and go to the part of the farmhouse that is for “men”.

**7. List some of the *themes* of the play.**

* Gender inequality
* Abuse

**8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?**

* The sheriff and court attorney go to the farmhouse to search around to find some proof in order for them to arrest Mrs. Wright. They doe not have solid proof that she committed this crime. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters found the only evidence that could make Mrs. Wright look guilty, the dead canary. The women try and hide it in order to help out Mrs. Wright.

**9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.**

* I think the title refers to the moment the women find the dead bird. The definition of trifle is “a thing of little value or importance”. When they found the bird, Mrs. Peters states that’s they’re probably overreacting about the bird and that they should give it too much thought. Although the bird is probably the answer to all the questions that are being asked, they make it seem as if it has no importance at all.

**10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.**

* The main family relationships in this play are husband and wife, specifically Mr. And Mrs. Wright. Mrs. Wright was abused and mistreated by her husband. Them men obviously saw themselves as the head of the household and had to do everything their husbands wanted even if they disagreed and had to take all of the abuse given by their husbands. By the play, it seems as if this was very common in various marriages and women stuck together to help each other.